

Wilmington, Delaware
December 13, 2012

#3770

Sponsors:

Council
Members
Shabazz
Wright

WHEREAS, the Victim's Compensation Assistance Program was established to help innocent victims of certain crimes meet additional hardships imposed upon them due to those crimes, by covering them for some of their losses sustained; and

WHEREAS, due to crime reductions, the expenditures of the Victim's Compensation Assistance Program are outpacing the revenues generated to support it; and

WHEREAS, in a comprehensive approach to ensure the longevity of the program and make limited annual funds go farther, the Victim's Compensation Assistance Program Advisory Council is considering reductions in the amounts awarded for some services; and

WHEREAS, City Council recognizes that during financial difficulties, entities must take a balanced approach and examine both expenditure reductions and revenue enhancements; and

WHEREAS, the primary source of funding for the Victim's Compensation Assistance Program is the 18% surcharge added to criminal fines imposed by the courts; and

WHEREAS, the 18% surcharge is statutorily set by the Delaware General Assembly, and the percentage has not been changed in recent memory; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the surcharge would potentially result in increased revenues, allowing the Program to forego any proposed reduction in benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that the City Council recommends that the Victim's Compensation Program Advisory Council request the 18% surcharge that is added to criminal fines be increased to address the Program's revenue shortfall, as opposed to reducing the amounts paid to victims.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that a copy of this resolution be sent to Delaware's Attorney General Beau Biden, as well as to all members of the Delaware General Assembly.

Passed by City Council,
December 13, 2012

Attest: Maribel Seijo
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 13th
day of December, 2012.

John R. Meritt
City Solicitor